United Nations A/56/634-S/2001/1087

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 21, 56, 58, 59, 61, 90, 95 (a), 97 (c), 98 (a), 105, 111 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Questions relating to information

Macroeconomic policy questions: trade and development

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Globalization and interdependence

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

01-64895 (E) 211101 211101

Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the press communiqué issued by the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group, composed of the Ministers of Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, at their meeting held on 14 November 2001 during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21, 56, 58, 59, 61, 90, 95 (a), 97 (c), 98 (a), 105, 111 and 166 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Press communiqué on the meeting between the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India

On the occasion of the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, a meeting was held today between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the "troika" of the Rio Group — composed of Ms. Soledad Alvear, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, and Mr. Roberto Rojas López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica — and Mr. Jaswant Singh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of India.

Other Ministers for Foreign Affairs of countries members of the Rio Group also attended this meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of India was accompanied by other senior members of his delegation.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with this first formal institutionalized meeting between the Rio Group and India. During the meeting the following subjects were considered:

- The overall situation in the two regions.
- The principal agreements reached at the Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group.
- The international situation and terrorism.
- The strengthening of the role of the United Nations.
- Cooperation in international forums (the environment, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, the arms trade).
- Coordination of joint positions on matters relating to the World Trade Organization.
- Cooperation with regard to information and communications technology, with special reference to overcoming the technological gap.

Both the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India were of the view that there was great potential for understanding and mutual cooperation with regard to all the subjects discussed. They agreed to promote joint action and common positions within the framework of the United Nations and, in particular, at the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group appreciated India's offer to share its experience in the field of information and communications technology and to strengthen cooperation in matters relating to technology.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of India expressed his satisfaction with this first meeting with the Rio Group, which he regarded as the most important forum in the Latin American region on various multilateral matters.

On the subject of terrorism, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India categorically condemned the terrorist attacks carried out against the United States on 11 September 2001 and expressed their support for the actions undertaken by the international community to eradicate this scourge.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs also agreed that all terrorist acts and methods constituted a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, a threat to international peace and stability and an impediment to global economic growth. Moreover, terrorism was aimed at destroying human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in particular, it threatened the open and pluralistic character of democratic societies. Terrorism was a global scourge which must be dealt with on a collective basis.

Finally, it was agreed that the Rio Group and India would continue to work together in coordinating joint positions on matters of mutual interest.

New York, 14 November 2001.

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 97 (c), 105 and 166

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Globalization and interdependence

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the press communiqué issued by the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group, composed of the Ministers of Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, at their meeting held on 13 November 2001 during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 97 (c), 105 and 166 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-64902 (E) 211101 211101

Annex to the letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Press communiqué on the meeting between the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

A meeting was held today between the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group — composed of Ms. María Soledad Alvear Valenzuela, Secretary pro tempore and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, and Mr. Roberto Rojaz López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica — and Mr. Anatoly Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

This meeting took place during the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During the meeting, the following agenda was considered:

- Information on the Rio Group and the recent Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Information on points of interest to Ukraine
- Exchange of views on possible joint action within the framework of the United Nations
- The international situation and terrorism.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated recently in the United States and declared their readiness to support the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism. They also emphasized the need for all countries to implement Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001.

The Ministers greatly appreciated this first meeting between the Rio Group and Ukraine and agreed to continue to hold meetings of this kind in the future.

New York, 13 November 2001.

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 41, 42, 101, 119 (a) and (b) and 166

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group on the subject of the crisis in the Middle East, at their meeting held on 14 November 2001 on the occasion of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

On behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41, 42, 101, 119 (a), (b) and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group on the crisis in the Middle East

In view of the grave crisis in the Middle East peace process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Rio Group, meeting in New York on 14 November 2001 on the occasion of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, wish to state as follows:

1. They most vigorously condemn the acts of violence and the use and threat of the use of force, recognizing that the only valid method of achieving peace is to use the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes which have been accepted and recognized by the international community, including, in particular, dialogue and negotiation among the parties involved in the conflict.

2. In this regard, the member countries of the Rio Group reaffirm their adherence to the United Nations resolutions which have created the legal framework for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in essence on the basis of the constitution of an independent, viable and democratic State for the Palestinian people and security for Israel within internationally recognized borders, and reiterate their concern that the negotiations on the peace process, which began in Oslo in 1993, should be resumed. For this purpose, the Rio Group once again urges the parties involved in the conflict to desist immediately from all acts of violence and to return to the peace process negotiations as soon as possible, and appeals to them to consider all methods conducive to the attainment of that end and to comply with the international community's initiatives and appeals for peace, especially the appeal for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Mitchell report.

3. The Ministers of the Rio Group countries also urge the entire international community, in particular those countries or groups of countries which have historically borne responsibility in the quest for solutions to the Middle East conflict, to continue to assist the parties involved to resume the peace process negotiations and to monitor and ensure compliance with the commitments freely made by the parties, in the interests of international peace and security, the unrestricted protection of human rights, respect for cultural and religious values and symbols, progress, well-being and development, and cooperation among the peoples in the Middle East region.

New York, 14 November 2001